

## V. Remarks

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 1-20 remain pending.

### *Amendments to the Drawings*

Figures 1-27 of the drawings has been amended to show the proper cross-hatching for features made of plastic as appropriate.

### *Specification Objections*

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract and paragraph [0036] due to various minor grammatical errors. The Abstract has been amended to add the word "which" before the words "consists of", paragraph [0036] has been amended to replace the word "is" between the words "ring 8" and "elastically constricted" with the words "to be". It is respectfully submitted that this objection is now traversed and should be withdrawn and that no new matter has been introduced into the application.

### *Claim Objections*

Claims 1-3, 6, 19 and 20 were object to for various informalities. In light of the above amendments to the claims, it is believed these objections are now traversed and should be withdrawn.

*Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112*

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 9-11, 14-18, and 20 have been amended to correct various antecedent basis issues and to clarify the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In light of these amendments, it is believed these rejections are now traversed and should be withdrawn.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

The Examiner has indicated claims 2-6 and 9-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd paragraph as noted above. In light of the above amendments and the arguments set forth below, it is believed that all of the pending claims are now allowable and such action is hereby requested.

*Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)*

Claims 1, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European patent to Salomon-Bahls EPO No. EP 1,199,506 ("Salomon- Bahls"). Applicant notes that this reference is a prior patent filed on behalf of the same inventor in the present application. Applicant further notes that this reference corresponds with publication US 2002/0140226 A1 and US Patent No. 6,612,623. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Regarding claim 1, as noted by the Examiner, Salomon-Bahls in Figure 13 discloses a connection device including an insertion piece 2 for inserting into an opening 10 of a connection body 12 and enclosing a receiving opening 14 for a pipe

16. A sealing element 4 seals between the connecting body 12 and the pipe 16. As clearly shown in Fig. 13, an outer surface of the sealing element 4 interacts with a cylindrical inner surface of the connecting body 12. Applicant submits that Salomon-Bahis fails to disclose the claimed inner cone surface recited in claim 1. From this it is submitted that Salomon-Bahis fails to disclose an outer cone surface of a clamping ring interacting with an inner cone surface of a housing part as claimed in the present application. Moreover, Salomon-Bahis discloses a different kind of a connecting device comprising a holding element 6 designed as a punched bent part made of spring steel sheet and having several holding arms 20. This holding element 6 forms a serrated ring and is held in its outer circumferential region 6a relative to an insert part 2. The insert part 2, however, does also not correspond to the present invention, as according to the above item 2, it is not connected to a base part (connecting body 12) via a snap connection, but via tooth-like annular bumps 18 for securing in the connecting opening 10 (cylindrical bore) in body 12.

Furthermore, the sealing element 4 of Salomon-Bahis is a separate part in the form of a shaped ring (profiled ring) made of an elastic material and being fixed on the insert part 2 via a frictional and/or form-fitting connection 28.

Salomon-Bahis does not disclose a "combined insert and sealing part" integrally formed and consisting of two different plastic materials with a material joint therebetween. This reference further does not disclose a clamping ring which interacts with an inner cone of the housing part, or an insert part connected to a base part via a snap-action form-fitting connection and having an inner cone for interaction with a clamping ring, or a dirt seal as a single piece (integrally) together with an insert part, whereby the insert part consists of a first (harder) plastic material and the

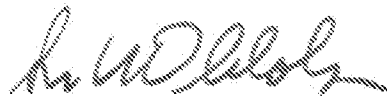
dirt seal consists of a second (softer) plastic material. It is respectfully submitted this rejection is improper and should accordingly be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 7 and 8 it is noted that these claims are dependent upon independent claim 1. Therefore, the arguments presented above are herein incorporated by reference. For at least the reasons described above, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are improper and should accordingly be withdrawn.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: